

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 IO-10 L-02 OIC-02

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R 141852Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 657

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: GRAIN RESERVES: MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL
PREPARATORY GROUP

REF: A) LONDON 7268 (NOTAL) B) GENEVA 3450

1. THE MISSION BELGIEVES WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TRY TO DISCOURAGE PAROTTE'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A CLEARED IDEA OF HOW THE WORK OF THE PREP GROUP SHOULD MESH WITH THAT OF THE MTN SUB-GROUP ON GRAINS (PARAGRAPH 2B, REFTEL A). WE NOTE THAT PAROTTE HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE WITH THE GATT SECRETARIAT ON THIS ISSUE.

2. THE THRUST OF THE US POSITION IN SETTLING ITS DISPUTE WITH THE COMMUNITY ON HOW TO HANDLE AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN (REFTEL B) HAS BEEN THAT WE WANTED THE LONDON WORK TO GO ALONG, IF POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CREATION OF A GRAINS SUB-GROUP AT GENEVA. IT WAS THE COMMUNITY WHICH INSISTED ON THE CREATION OF THE GRAINS SUB-GROUP AT GENEVA AND WHICH HAS
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FROM THE BEGINNING TENDED TO SUPPORT WORK AT GENEVA RATHER

THAN AT LONDON. HOWEVER, AS PART OF A HARD-FOUGHT COMPROMISE THE COMMUNITY IS NOW COMMITTED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE LONDON ACTIVITY.

3. EFFORTS BY PAROTTE TO CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP AS BETWEEN LONDON AND GENEVA -- WHILE PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT -- ARE LIKELY TO PRECIPITATE SOME CHOICES THAT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR THE US AT PRESENT AND TACTICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE COMMUNITY.

4. FROM HERE IT WOULD SEEM VERY MUCH IN THE US INTEREST TO SUGGEST THAT PAROTTE CONCENTRATE ON MAKING AS RAPID PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE IN LONDON AND LET THE GENEVA MATTER REST FOR THE MOMENT. WE RECOGNIZE OF COURSE THAT THE EC (OR OTHER PARTIES) MAY RAISE THE ISSUE SOON AND THAT THE US WILL NEED TO HAVE A RESPONSE. BUT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE THE US INTEREST LIES IN SLIDING BY THIS QUESTION TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, STOCKPILES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU04310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-1303
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750550/aaaabtcl.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 7268, 75 (NOTAGENEVA 3450
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRAIN RESERVES: MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL PREPARATORY GROUP
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, IWC, (PAROTTE, J H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006